

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

ALFRED WING KIN CHAN

|                 |                  |           |            |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Application No. | Unassigned       | Art Unit: | Unassigned |
| Filed:          | October 22, 2001 | Examiner: | Unassigned |
| For:            | PIPE FITTINGS    |           |            |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

*IN THE CLAIMS:*

*Replace the indicated claims with:*

1. (Amended) A pipe fitting comprising a hollow body and at least one open end for connection to a pipe, the open end including internal screw threads for connection to a pipe and an integral extension collar which has an inner diameter larger than an internal diameter of the internal screw threads, for surrounding unused trailing screw threads of a pipe connected to the pipe fitting, for forming an annular gap with a pipe connected to the fitting, and for holding a sealing compound, wherein the collar has a wall thickness comparable to the fitting where the internal screw threads are located, and an outer diameter larger than the fitting where the internal screw threads are located.
2. (Amended) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screw threads are tapered outwards with respect to an axis of the open end.
3. (Amended) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, made of a galvanised iron material.

4. (Amended) The pipe fitting as claimed in' claim 1, wherein the fitting is selected from the group consisting of an elbow joint, a T joint, a straight joint, and an end cap.

*Add the following claims:*

5. (New) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 2, made of a galvanised iron material.

6. (New) The pipe fitting as claimed in' claim 2, wherein the fitting is selected from the group consisting of an elbow joint, a T joint, a straight joint, and an end cap.

*IN THE ABSTRACT:*

*Replace the abstract with:*

#### ABSTRACT


A pipe fitting includes a hollow body and at least one open end for connection to a pipe fitting, the end including internal screw threads . The end includes an integral extension collar which has an inner diameter larger than the screw threads for surrounding unused trailing screw threads of a pipe joined to the fitting and forming an annular gap for holding a sealing compound. The collar has a wall of a comparable thickness to the and an outer diameter larger than the body of the fitting.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendments are made to correct minor translational errors and to meet United States requirements as to form. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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